

Air Force Prime Time, a weekly news magazine for and about airmen stationed overseas, airs Thursday evenings at 8:25 p.m. Central European Time on AFN television. In this week's edition, AFN covers Operation Provide Hope in Moldova, First Combat Communications, the Expeditionary Medical Squadron and more.



## News briefs

### Wing commander's call

Brig. Gen. Don Hoffman, 52nd Fighter Wing commander, holds four commander's calls Tuesday for all military members and U.S. civilian employees at 8 and 10 a.m., and 12:30 in the Spangdahlem gym and at 3:30 p.m. in the Spangdahlem base theater.

The primary schedule for attendance at each session is as follows:

- 8 a.m. session, logistics group and wing staff
- 10 a.m. session, operations group
- 12:30 p.m. session, support and medical groups
- 3:30 p.m. session, shift workers and all others.

Seating is limited to 440 for the last session.

Also, please note, in order to meet mission requirements, people should consult their supervisor to determine which session to attend. For more information, call Capt. Glen Roberts at 452-6012.

### Block party

The First Sergeants' Council holds a block party for all unaccompanied members beginning at noon today at the base pavilion near the bowling alley. Food and entertainment is free. Call Master Sgt. Tilmon Hodges Jr. at 452-6123 for more information.

### Nature trail closed

The base nature trail closes 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday due to firearms training. Call Tech. Sgt. Robert Hammond at 452-6287 for more information.

### Assumption of command

Lt. Col. Kelly Wing assumes command of the 52nd Medical Support Squadron during a 3 p.m. ceremony Aug. 21 in the Bitburg fitness center. Call Senior Master Sgt. Marie Carter-Cherry at 453-3131 for details.

### Parcel mailing hours

The parcel mailing window at the Bitburg post office opens 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday and Wednesday through Friday, and 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday.

The change was made to implement new end-of-day procedures on the Integrated Retail Terminals, which allow customers to pay using credit and debit cards. Call Staff Sgt. Byron Jones at 453-9506 for details.

### Hospital closure

The 52nd Medical Group clinics and

**See Briefs, Page 2**

# Eifel Times

Vol. 34, Issue 29

Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany

Aug. 11, 2000



Airman 1st Class Kimberlie Drews

### Guest of honor

Maj. Gen. Kenneth W. Hess, 3rd Air Force commander, speaks with the newest members of Spangdahlem at the first term airman center during his visit to the base Aug. 2-3.

## Chaplain awarded Bronze Star

**By Senior Airman Jennifer Lindsey**  
52nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Chaplain (Maj.) Karl Wiersum, 52nd Fighter Wing, was awarded the Bronze Star Aug. 2, making him the only chaplain in Operation Allied Force to receive the medal.

Maj. Gen. Kenneth Hess, 3rd Air Force commander, Mildenhall Air Base, England, presented the medal to Wiersum in the base chapel. Hess visited Spangdahlem Air Base Aug. 2-3 during his familiarization tour of 3rd AF units. He assumed command of the numbered Air Force in June.

The medal recognizes Wiersum's

exceptional spiritual support and counseling as chaplain for 23rd and 81st Expeditionary Fighter Squadron members deployed to Aviano and Gioia del Colle air bases in Italy during the combat operation, according to the medal citation.

"It goes beyond my wildest dreams to receive such an award," said Wiersum. "During my deployment, I felt I was just doing my job."

In the course of just doing his job from Feb. 25 to July 8, 1999, Wiersum provided 24-hour counseling services to more than 1,000 deployed members. In doing so, he "ensured high morale" and

"confidence, enabling the pilots to focus on the critical job at hand," sites the citation.

Wiersum is also credited with developing "a true sense of caring and trust among personnel by fielding questions and concerns" of the 31st and 40th Air Expeditionary Wings and those of 11 elements of the 52nd Expeditionary Wing.

Wiersum credits his success in supporting deployed members to the team-like support he gained from his office at Spangdahlem, his wife and people at the deployed location.

## Airmen plead guilty in courts-martial

Compiled from staff reports

Two courts-martial cases ended last week at Spangdahlem Air Base with the convictions of an airman first class and a technical sergeant.

In the first case Aug. 3, an airman from the 52nd Security Forces Squadron pleaded guilty in a general court-martial and was sentenced by a panel of six military officers to a bad conduct discharge, confinement for two years and reduction to airman basic.

Airman 1st Class Christopher Carter pleaded guilty to 10 specifications, including absence from duty, escaping from custody, wrongful use of marijuana, stealing, writing 38 bad checks and assaulting a fellow airman.

Between August and October 1999, Carter defrauded a bank by writing \$14,925 in checks, knowing that he did not or would not have sufficient funds to cover them. In March 2000, Carter

was involved in forging three checks totaling \$1,550. Other charges included stealing a cellular phone, gasoline and 20 CD's. He also assaulted another airman in mid-February and was absent without leave for six days.

In April 2000, Carter escaped from custody and was later turned in by a fellow security forces member.

Tech. Sgt. Deborah Schonstrom, assigned to the 470th Air Base Squadron at NATO Air Base Geilenkirchen, pleaded guilty to dereliction of duty in a special court-martial Aug. 4.

A military judge sentenced her to a reduction to senior airman and a reprimand.

The specific charge against Schonstrom resulted from her failure to ship urine specimens to the Air Force Drug Testing Laboratory at Brooks Air Force Base, Texas, on several occasions between Sept. 25, 1998 and March 23, 2000.

# Construction projects change traffic routes



**(Editor's Note: SPANGDAHLEM under Construction is a periodic update of projects around the base. The goal is to inform people of various facility upgrades, road construction, detours, renovations and more, and how it impacts people who live and work on base. Information for the column is provided by members of the 52nd Civil Engineer Squadron.)**

**Project:** Repaving Bitburg Military Family Housing, buildings 23 and 24; 26 and 27; 29 and 30 and 32 and 33 parking areas.

**Start date:** July 24.

**Completion date:** Today, weather permitting.

**Cost:** \$250,000.

**Impact:** Improved parking lot surface and curbs. Brischetto Loop is designated a one-way road during the repaving project. The one-way street is from the corner of Brischetto Loop and Keene Moore Street, by Anthony's Pizza, proceeding counter-clockwise to the corner of Brischetto Loop and McAree Circle, by the base exchange. Parking is permitted on the sidewalk along the right side of Brischetto Loop.

**Project:** Spangdahlem Air Base curbstone replacement.

**Start date:** Monday.

**Completion date:** Aug. 19, weather permitting.

**Cost:** \$265,000.

**Impact:** Improve base appearance. Includes curbs along the base main gate on Barksdale Road to intersection at Arnold Boulevard and along Perimeter Road from the main gate to Arnold Boulevard intersection. Scheduled to coincide with another project to widen the main gate into Spangdahlem to 3 lanes. The gate entrance has changed to the old main gate and only exit through the main

gate. The gate will not be effected for the entire length of the curbing project, just the widening phase.

Both repaving contracts are in the works to remedy a severely deteriorated pavement condition that was identified the base five-year pavement plan as a priority infrastructure replacement project.

**Project:** Upgrade Spang-dahlem Air Base main gate.

**Start date:** Monday.

**Completion date:** November.

**Cost:** \$440,000.

**Impact:** Civil engineers say traffic entering the base will be redirected to one of two other gates for about four months. However, once the project is complete, safety and force protection will increase as a result of the work. During the renovation, people will have to use either the Binsfeld gate or old main gate to enter and exit the base. While the old main gate will be open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, the Binsfeld gate only open 6-8 a.m. and 3:30-6 p.m. Monday through Friday.

## Morning traffic flood tested old main gate flow Monday

By Senior Airman Jennifer Lindsey  
52nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Monday was a test of flexibility and quick thinking for base security forces as cars flooded the old main gate morning.

Rerouting traffic entering the base through the old main gate will continue through November, according to Lt. Col. Steve Asher, 52nd Security Forces Squadron commander.

Some confusion occurred Monday morning when the original plan to route all inbound traffic in through the gate's inbound lane was altered to include entry for left turns through the gate's outbound lane, Asher said.

"Our goal is to keep the traffic flowing as smoothly as possible during this period," Asher said. "We found more people were making left turns so it only made sense to revise our original plan."

Another option for entering the base is to use the Binsfeld gate. This gate is open 6-8 a.m. and 3:30-6 p.m. Monday through Friday.

"We encourage people to use the Binfield gate in the mornings as the renovation project continues," Asher said. "(Monday) morning's traffic moved through there very smoothly."

**To report hazardous road conditions during construction on base call the law enforcement desk at 452-6666.**

Asher suggests those using the Binsfeld gate turn right after entering, traveling by base housing to avoid entering the intersection of Arnold Boulevard and the old main gate. Traffic entering the base has priority during the renovation period and the wait to cross the intersection in the morning can take a while.

A third option to avoid sitting in traffic is to leave for work earlier or later avoiding the 6:50-7:45 a.m. peak time, said Master Sgt. Otis Hawes, 52nd SFS.

"We're asking the base community to remain patient and pay close attention to traffic signs and traffic controllers," said Hawes. "Also, mind the actions of other drivers who may be confused by all the detours and changes in traffic patterns."

An option to gain access to the base that isn't permitted is to make U-turns in front of the Pass Buero, building 20, said Hawes.

## Briefs

Continued from Page 1

ancillary services (lab, pharmacy and radiology) close at 9 a.m. Aug. 25 for a commander's call and annual picnic.

Emergency services will be available at the Bitburg hospital and ambulance services will be offered on Spangdahlem. For more information, call the particular clinic directly.

### GSU member priority

To best serve members of geographically separated units assigned to the 52nd Fighter Wing, the wing commander endorsed a policy allowing GSU members and their families to move to the front of all customer service lines when conducting official business at Spangdahlem Air Base. The policy takes effect Sept. 1.

The policy asks customer service people to add a column to their sign-in procedures so GSU customers can be readily identified. The main areas impacted are finance, legal, the military personnel flight, pass and registration, supply customer service, immunizations outpatient records, pharmacy and the TRICARE service center.

Wing GSU customers travel far and have a limited time on base. This policy allows them to complete their requirements without having to spend the night.

### Banking hours limited

Community Bank limits its operating hours to 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Spangdahlem and 9 a.m. to noon on Bitburg Aug. 24 because of staff training.

### Special assignment nominations

Nominations are being accepted for chief master sergeant or chief master sergeant selectees to serve as subject matter experts for two U.S. Air Forces in Europe projects at the Air Force Occupational Measurement Squadron, Randolph Air Force Base, Texas, from Jan. 3 to Feb. 2 and Jan 23 to Feb. 1.

Qualifications include:

■ Any Air Force Specialty Code; however, preference is given to technical or operational AFSCs.

■ Senior NCO Academy graduate. College graduates also preferred.

■ Nominee must not have a spouse or immediate family members in the Air Force below the grade of chief master sergeant. Immediate family members are defined as children, step-children and siblings.

Submit nominations by Sept. 1. Call promotions and testing at 452-6344 for applications and submission information.

# First sergeants' coin recognizes exceptional work

About 120 coins to be handed to airmen throughout the year for professionalism, dedication

Compiled from staff reports

Beginning Tuesday, unit first sergeants instituted a new recognition program at Spangdahlem Air Base.

The "Well Done" program, conceived by the First Sergeants Council, is designed to award staff sergeants and below a "well done" coin for outstanding support, service, professional appearance or other attributes which demonstrate Air Force pride, professionalism and dedication, said Master Sgt. Jeff Mertzluft, 52nd Component Repair Squadron first sergeant.

About 120 coins are to be divided among unit first sergeants to be handed out throughout the calendar year. First sergeants aren't supposed to award coins to their own unit members, though.

"It's up to the individual first sergeant as to how quickly or slowly they award coins, but all coins are to be awarded within a one-year period," Mertzluft said.

A record will be maintained by the first sergeant program coordinator or council secretary to ensure multiple coins aren't awarded to the same person, he said.

The council thought this was a necessary program, Mertzluft said. There's a lot of troops out there, doing their job day to day, and not getting recognition. Hopefully, this will help fill that gap.



Tech. Sgt. Anne Ward

The "Well Done" program awards staff sergeants and below with a "well done" coin.

## USAFE, wing units select aviation, quarterly performers

Compiled from staff reports

Officials from U.S. Air Forces in Europe and the 52nd Fighter Wing announced recent individual award winners and achievements in leadership, professionalism, innovation and quality assurance.

Here's a look at the winners and their categories:

### Gen. Lew Allen Jr. Trophy

■Capt. Michael Ingersoll, 81st Fighter Squadron, USAFE and wing

■Senior Master Sgt. Roger Schwenneker, 81st FS, wing only

### Wing Lance P. Sijan awards

■Lt. Col. Jonathon Bitler, 22nd Fighter Wing, senior officer

■Capt. Michael Geer, 52nd Civil Engineer Squadron, junior officer

■Senior Master Sgt. Michael Murray, 606th Air Control Squadron, senior enlisted

■Tech. Sgt. William Brown, 52nd Component Repair Squadron, junior enlisted

### Second quarter awards

#### 52nd Operations Group

■Airman 1st Class Jeremy Rae, 606th ACS, airman category

■Tech. Sgt. Troy Palmer, 606th ACS, NCO category

■Master Sgt. Laurie Calkins, 606th ACS, senior NCO category

■Capt. James Abatti, 23rd Fighter Squadron, company grade officer category

■Capt. Timothy Lakata, 81st FS, flight lead category

■Capt. Michael Schnabel, instructor pilot category

■1st Lt. Alex Cress, 81st FS, wingman category

■Tech. Sgt. Jonathan Broadway, 23rd FS, NCO maintenance professional category

■Airman 1st Class Timothy Mackey, airman maintenance professional category

■Staff Sgt. Bruce Mullison, 81st FS, dedicated crew chief category

#### 52nd Medical Operations Squadron

■Capt. Dean Frazier, company grade officer category

■Master Sgt. Kathy McGough, senior NCO category

■Staff Sgt. Stephanie Wilder, NCO category

■Senior Airman Monica Graham, airman category

#### 52nd Contracting Squadron

■2nd Lt. Brenda Lienke, company grade officer category

■Tech. Sgt. Kenton Raiford, NCO category

■Iris Esslinger, civilian category (also 52nd Logistics Group civilian of the second quarter)

#### 52nd Component Repair Squadron

■Senior Airman Frederic Daniels, airman category

■Staff Sgt. John Degelia, NCO category

■Master Sgt. William Brown, senior NCO category

#### 52nd Support Group

■Capt. Donna Petty, company grade officer category

■Gwen Gomez, junior civilian category

■Senior Airman Christina Packer, airman category

#### Air Traffic Control

■Master Sgt. John DeVoy, watch supervisor category

■Staff Sgt. DJ Johnson, controller

■Airman 1st Class Biagio Piccolo, trainee

#### 52nd Fighter Wing command group

■1st Lt. Angela Johnson, public affairs, company grade officer category

■Michelle O'Brien, 470th ABS, mid-level civilian category

■Master Sgt. Darin Callahan, safety, senior NCO category

■Staff Sgt. Ruel Rafi, plans and programs, NCO category

■Diane Goede, 470th Air Base

Squadron, Geilenkirchen, junior civilian category

■Senior Airman Nicole Veslor, plans and programs, airman category

#### 52nd Operations Support Squadron

■Capt. Brian No, company grade officer category

■Master Sgt. Joseph Schmucker, senior NCO category

■Staff Sgt. Ricardo Young, NCO category

■Airman 1st Class Patrick Simmons, airman category

#### 52nd Civil Engineer Squadron

■Senior Master Sgt. Andy Suan, senior NCO category

■Tech. Sgt. Fred Lime, NCO category

■Airman 1st Class Richard Railing, airman category

#### 22nd Fighter Squadron

■Senior Airman Christopher Yager, airman category

■Tech. Sgt. Robert Marshall, NCO category

■Master Sgt. Michael Pahel, senior NCO category

■Capt. Shane Henderson, company grade officer category

#### Weapons load crew

■Staff Sgt. Trevor Bryant, and Airmen 1st Class Shaun Marcus and McKinty Young, 81st FS

#### Jammer driver

■Airman 1st Class Anthony Bennett, 23rd FS

#### 52nd CES below-the-zone

■Airmen 1st Class Paul Wagner, Antonio Hicks and Seth Martin, senior airmen BTZ

#### Commissioning

■Master Sgt. Paul Busuttil, 22nd FS, has been selected for Officer Training School.

#### IDEA awards

■Master Sgt. Jeffrey Klemm, 52nd EMS,

\$400

■Staff Sgt. James Barton, 23rd FS, \$200

■Staff Sgt. Robert Voight, 52nd OG, \$400

■Senior Airman Stuart Richardson, 52nd EMS, \$200

■Master Sgt. David Nearbin, 52nd Equipment Maintenance Squadron, \$200

*(Editor's Note: The following people received quarterly recognition in the 52nd Operations and Logistics Groups Quality Assurance Honor Roll program. Qualification for the honor roll requires a 100 percent pass rate on all inspections performed on A-10 and F-16 aircraft during the quarter, and pride and professionalism toward quality maintenance. The maintainers listed were selected for April through June.)*

#### 22nd FS

■Staff Sgts. Dennis Blackmon, Danny Cross, Lane Goodnough, Chad Landt, Steven Pfeifer and Craig Wright; and Senior Airmen Raymond Diazrios and Joshua Stokley.

#### 23rd FS

■Staff Sgts. Samuel Alley, Christopher Corboy, Jeffrey Jackson, Richard Robinson and Aaron Williamson; Senior Airmen Jeffery Bode, Raina Gallardo, Chad Love and Joshua Tarro; and Airmen 1st Class Charles Martin and Joseph Williams.

#### 81st FS

■Tech. Sgt. Derrick East; Staff Sgts. Trevor Bryant, Jason Harrell, Matthew Merka, Bruce Mullison and Richard Swoboda; Senior Airmen William Koch and Joseph Segura; and Airmen 1st Class Jason Acheson and Joshua Stoll.

#### 52nd EMS

■Tech. Sgts. Valentino Colasito and Jeff Dose; Staff Sgt. James Allen; Senior Airman Christopher Castillon; and Airman 1st Class Richard Brown.

#### 52nd CRS

■Staff Sgts. Luis Gallardo and Gary Zahn, and Senior Airmen Fredrick Daniels and Luke Morgan.





Staff Sgt. Laura Sparks

### Heading to Green Flag

Pilots from the 23rd Fighter Squadron receive free phone cards and stationary packets from Tech. Sgt. Scott Gilbert of the Family Support Center during mobility processing. The 23rd FS is leaving for their annual trip to Green Flag at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev.

## Combating military stress

By Army Staff Sgt. Kathleen T. Rhem  
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — Deployments and military operations are high-stress propositions, regardless of whether service members are under hostile fire.

"Stress isn't something you just have in that foxhole," said Bernard Rostker, undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness. That thinking led Defense Department officials to host the first Leaders and Operational Stress Conference at Fort McNair recently.

"Stress is something that has plagued our veterans in the 10 years since the Gulf War," Rostker said, speaking from his experiences as special assistant to the deputy secretary of defense for Gulf War illnesses, a post he's held since 1996.

Officials are moving from the traditional concept of combat stress to a more inclusive concept: that operational stress affects service members in most military actions, even those not involving combat.

### New contributing factors

Retired Army Lt. Gen. Walter F. Ulmer Jr. called stress a "little-talked-about, under-resourced matter." He also believes today's lighter, more efficient force increases the stress of those currently serving. A 33-year veteran, he is now an independent consultant specializing in executive leadership and management of complex organizations.

"We used to have assistant truck drivers in the Army so you could drive 24 hours a day. Our war plans still say we drive 24 hours a day, but the assistant truck drivers are long gone," Ulmer said. "It's a manpower issue. We have managed to create a very efficient force, but we've taken away surge capability and resilience from units."

"We learned during the Gulf War that the Defense Department does not deal well with nontraditional issues such as deployment stress," Rostker said. "Our investigations following the war show that although comparatively few Gulf War service members participated in actual combat, many of the military members deployed were exposed to a wide range of stressors."

### Possible readiness detriment

There's also evidence that unchecked stress plays a major role in changing behavior, such as increasing substance abuse, and in the most extreme cases, suicide, he said.

Another reason progress has been slow is poor record keeping during the Gulf War. "We do not routinely collect data on organizational climates on cohesion, trust, or spirit. We can tell you how much percent body fat we have, but we can't tell you much about mental health or about innate or learned ability to fight the kind of stresses we anticipate," Ulmer said.

Better records have been kept in Bosnia. From them, department officials have determined 15 percent of medical evacuations were for mental health reasons — a statistic that's impossible to ignore.

"We're trying to make sure leaders understand they have a direct impact on the stress imposed upon their troops," said Dee Morris, director of Lessons-learned Implementation in Rostker's Gulf War illnesses office. "We're not pushing them out there to take care of this on their own with everything else they've got to think about. We have provided them tools, with the medical community, combat stress control teams and, most importantly, the chaplains."

### Changing perceptions

Ultimately, Ulmer believes, it'll take a change of mindset among military leaders before stress becomes a high-profile issue.

Service members and their leaders need to get over denying and ignoring stress. "A lot of people try to push away dealing with stress. People are afraid of a perceived weakness," Morris said. "We're trying to reinforce that it's not weak to ask for help. Help is there. We staff for it. We anticipate it. They need to use it so we can return folks to a ready state so they can perform their mission." (Air Force Print News)

## POW posters bear somber description

Military units around the world are receiving copies of the POW/MIA Recognition Day 2000 poster. This year, POW/MIA Recognition Day is Sept. 15.

Family members of missing people and veterans served as a "focus group" and helped decide design ideas appropriate for all conflicts and services, said Larry Greer of the Defense Department's POW-Missing Personnel Office.

#### Poster description:

- The somber black tones symbolize the darkness in our lives from those taken from us.
- The black background with white border brings to mind the stark black POW/MIA flag.
- In the upper left-hand corner is the missing American. He's missing, but he's always with us.
- The telegram symbolizes the link to the families of our missing.
- The jet aircraft are flying the traditional "missing man" formation. Their comrade isn't with them. They know that someday, they will all be able to say "three's in."
- And the serviceman in the foreground symbolizes the soldier, sailor, airman or Marine who wears the military uniform today.
- Our commitment to them is firm. Our nation's obligation to them is steadfast.
- We will never forget their service, nor their sacrifice.
- And "LEST WE FORGET!" is simply a reminder to all who love America, that our loved ones will always be with us . . . our commitment to them will never be forgotten! (Air Force Print News Service)



Staff Sgt. Laura Sparks

### Close call

A grease fire in Bitburg housing, building 38, at 5:37 p.m. Aug. 2 caused about \$2,000 damage to the unit, according to Chief Master Sgt. George Chambers, base fire chief. The fire was extinguished by the occupants before the fire department arrived. It was the 27th fire on the base this year, of which 20 percent were caused by unattended cooking, Chambers said, making it the leading cause of fires on base.

# Air Guard units, wing come together

## Base benefits from help Guard offers as 'MAINEiacs' get on-the-job training

By Tech. Sgt. Anne C. Ward,  
101st Air Refueling Wing, Public Affairs

Members of the Maine Air National Guard arrived at Spangdahlem Air Base July 29 on a KC-135 tanker from Bangor, Maine, as part of their annual two-week summer training.

The deployment of 50 people consists of members from the 101st Air Refueling Wing, Bangor ANGB, and two from Guard State Headquarters, Augusta, and the South Portland geographically separated unit medical squadron.

This is the fourth such deployment to Spangdahlem AB for the group from Maine. The purpose of the temporary duty is two-fold, said 1st Lt. Todd Nadeau, deployment executive officer. It provides needed hands-on training and gives the guard a chance to work with and learn from their active-duty counterparts in the overseas theater. This helps back-fill the TDY demands on Spangdahlem AB troops who support Air Expeditionary Force taskings.

### Covering many areas

The make up of guardsmen from Maine varies from year to year, Nadeau said. This year the unit brought people from 14 functional areas.

"We try to bring the non- (aircraft) maintenance type of people who provide supporting functions to the base, those people who don't get to go TDY very often," Nadeau explained.

"It's great for our guardsmen to receive training we otherwise wouldn't receive at home. It also promotes the total force concept. It's a great recruiting and retention tool for our unit and it gives active-duty people a chance to learn more about the guard."

The unit chose to come to Spangdahlem AB because a good working relationship developed through the years with the base and wing plans and programs (XP), and the fact that KC-135 tankers can land here, Nadeau said.

"This is our busy time of year with military members PCSing, people on leave and TDY commitments," said Tech. Sgt. Sara Joyce, guard and reserve liaison for XP.

"The Air Force has one third fewer people than at the height of the cold war, and we are doing more with less," said Joyce. "We have guard and reserve units in reception here every two weeks from March through September. These units provide us a great service with manning and they are doing us a big favor because their support is exactly what we need during our periods of high ops tempo."

"The few times I've worked with the guard and reserve, they just fit right in like one of our own," said Staff Sgt. Steve Hays, Spangdahlem fire department lead firefighter. "Firemen are firemen, we all have the same basic firefighter training - only sometimes it's base specific. We all have the brotherhood of the badge regardless of whether you're military, civilian or volunteer."

"We definitely appreciate the help and extra



Tech. Sgt. Scott Libby, 101st Civil Engineer Squadron firefighter, receives instruction from Staff Sgt. Joshua Ashton, 52nd CES rescue crew chief gets A-10 aircraft familiarization training as part of their training while deployed here.

manning. There's never enough people in this job."

"They've done a great job here," said Chief Master Sgt. George Chambers, base fire chief. "The Maine guys are a good bunch. The large frame aircraft experience they bring supplements the fighter experience we already have."

"What training they don't get at home, we can provide them. What we gain is a lot of added civilian expertise in firefighting and emergency medical services that I don't normally have with my firefighters."

Many other organizations on base have benefited from the extra assistance as well.

"It's always a challenge to find teachers for summer Bible school," said Chaplain (Maj.) Karl Wiersum, senior Protestant chaplain. "Half of our congregation is gone in the summer due to vacation and the huge turnover of people. It's a tremendous help to have Chaplain Bach do this class for us," referring to the chaplain from the Maine ANG, 1st Lt. Richard Bach. Bach gave the sermon at Sunday's Protestant service and taught a week of youth Bible classes to grades three through five.

### Coordination challenge

"A lot of time and coordination takes place to make these summer deployments for the guard and reserve happen," Joyce said. "The 52nd Fighter Wing pushes to make this process as efficient and cost effective as possible for the incoming units, with the help of contributing agencies on the reception line."

"I'm very pleased with the XP, billeting and other support we've gotten this year," Nadeau said. "The dynamics of the trip are different from last year, there's more esprit de corps. It's good to see different shops come together that have never worked with each other before."

Other units currently on base include the 185th Fighter Wing, ANG, Sioux City Iowa, maintenance and support; firefighters from the 482nd Civil Engineering Squadron, Homestead Air Reserve Base, Fla.; and the 434th Services Squadron, Grissom ANG, Peru, Ind. The 349th SVS, AFR, Travis AFB, Calif., departed Saturday.

By the end of the fiscal year, the XP shop will process and billet a total of 30 deployments from 19 different units, about 645 people. These numbers are growing every year, Joyce said.



Tech. Sgt. Anne Ward  
Senior Airman Marianne Lerette, 101st Medical Squadron, checks a reagent strip for specimen metabolic abnormalities while working in the 52nd Medical Group laboratory.



Tech. Sgt. Anne Ward  
Chaplain (1st Lt.) Richard Bach teaches summer Bible school students in the chapel annex.

# Seminar aims to steer youth on better path

By Julie Speegle  
52nd Services Squadron marketing office

The Boys and Girls Clubs of America teams with the U.S. Air Forces in Europe to bring a free two-day gang prevention seminar to the Eifel.

The workshop, titled "Gang Prevention Through Targeted Outreach," takes place 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday and Tuesday in the security forces training room in building 2011 on Bitburg. It aims to give participants a community approach to keeping young people from becoming involved in gangs and other harmful groups.

For several years, Air Force Youth Programs has actively sought to enrich the lives of girls and boys whom other youth agencies have had difficulty reaching.

This seminar especially targets young people from disadvantaged economic, social and family circumstances by directing them toward positive alternatives, and helping youth already involved in gang activities to leave that lifestyle.

Frank Sanchez, BGCA Delinquency Prevention senior director, administers the workshop by providing training materials and technical assistance to participants wishing to develop a community-wide gang prevention strategy. The program uses mobilization, recruitment strategies, and effective programming and case management tools to achieve results.

Base leadership and professionals from youth programs, family support center, security forces and Department of Defense Dependent Schools join in discussions centering on gang issues, meeting the social and developmental needs of youth, and preventing youth from joining destructive groups.

The U.S. Justice Department sponsors the training. For more information or to register, call Tom Stevens at 452-6721.



Airman 1st Class Michelle Roquid

### Keeping pace with change

Staff Sgt. Brian Jo Maier, 52nd Communications Squadron, teaches Tech. Sgt. Rafi Ruel how to use Windows 2000 during a recent software training workshop for work group administrators. Call 452-5384 for class details.

## Internet gives parents DoDDS forum

**RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany** — Officials at U.S. Air Forces in Europe want to know what parents think of their children's education, and cyber-space is providing the means.

Parents whose children attend Department of Defense Dependents Schools in Europe can address their concerns or send their suggestions by completing an electronic feedback form. The form is available on the USAFE Web site at [www.usafe.af.mil](http://www.usafe.af.mil).

USAFE's DoDDs Feedback Page is an effort by command leaders to encourage communication between the military and the DoDDs communities,

said Dr. Susan Kelly of the USAFE-DoDDs liaison office. The liaison office is part of the headquarters USAFE personnel directorate.

Kelly said the electronic feedback form was created to give parents another means of communicating with school officials and making suggestions for improving education.

Of course, meeting face-to-face with school administrators is always preferable, but parents who choose to use the electronic form can also expect a prompt response, she added.

"The submissions are forwarded to either the installation commander or DODDS for action, depending on who

can best address the issue in question," she said. "They then have 10 working days to respond."

Parents should include a telephone number or e-mail address with every submission. "This will let us reach the parents if we need more information on a specific issue, and allows us to give them a direct answer," she said.

All responses are sent to the parents and are also forwarded to USAFE Commander Gen. Gregory Martin for review.

Kelly said that the best point of resolution for any school issue is still at the installation level.



Get a new perspective of Germany this weekend

# Fly up, away in hot air balloon

By Iris Reiff

52nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

The 11th annual European Hot Air Balloon Festival takes place today through Sunday at the Bernkastel-Kues Plateau.

This event has become popular during the years and attracts balloonists and riders from near and far.

About 35 hot air balloons, among which are a cat's head, a fox, a tea pot and a boat, take to the skies four times throughout the weekend. During each take-off, adults and children ages 13 and older can buy rides for 350 DM per person. Reservations must be made in advance by calling 06531-5080.

## Take off

The first take-off is scheduled for 6 a.m. today with a return time of 9 p.m. Those staying on the ground can watch the popular spectacle and enjoy the festivities.

An "oldies" party takes place 8 p.m. to 2 a.m. with music and dancing. The evening's highlight is a balloon illumination event.

Saturday's activities start at 6 a.m. with the second take-off of balloons. Teams return at 9:30 a.m. where a breakfast is available for all guests at the festival tent. Cost is 15 DM per person. A morning concert follows at 10 a.m.

## Children's entertainment

A "great balloon rider's party" starts at 2 p.m. Highlights include cart races, a jumping castle, a welcome by cartoon figures, a children's entertainment program and more. Cold beverages, ice cream, coffee, cake and snacks are available throughout the party. In addition, there's a raffle where people can win a car and other prizes.

The third take-off is at 6:30 p.m. Live music by Rosita & Band and a barbecue is available for all guests that stay on the ground after 7:30 p.m. The balloon teams return at 9 p.m. and join the fun. Comedian Reiner Wahnsinn performs at 10:30 p.m.

The fourth and final take-off is planned for 6 p.m. Sunday, providing a final opportunity for rides. The teams land on time for breakfast at 9:30 a.m. Jazz music follows at 10 a.m. The jazz concert will be provided by the Daddy's Rhythm and Blues ensemble.

## Family time

The afternoon is for families. Entertainment, a barbecue, games, raffles, a magician, a jumping castle, model balloons, food and beverages await guests.

The festival ends at about 5 p.m. Throughout the three days, people can also observe model balloon competitions.

Entry to all events is free. More information about the event is available from the Moselpark Hotel at 06531-5080 or at [info@moselpark.de](mailto:info@moselpark.de).

## Ballooning championship

The 12th annual European Hot Air Balloon Championships are presently ongoing at the castle of Meysembourg, near Larochette, Luxembourg, involving 120 balloons.

Visitors can observe competition rides daily at 7 a.m. and 6 p.m., weather permitting. Passenger rides are



Photos by Iris Reiff

An eagle's view of hot air balloons participating in the European festival celebrating the sport. This year's event takes place today through Sunday in the Moselland area on the Bernkastel Plateau. About 35 balloons in various shapes and sizes fly four times throughout the weekend



In addition to balloon flights, the European Hot Air Balloon Festival offers food, musical concerts, children's entertainment and a ballooning championship competition.

available shortly before and after the competitions.

A concert takes place at 8 p.m. today with a party following at 9 p.m. The highlight of the night will be a "night glow" illumination event at 10 p.m. at Larochette "Bleech" Place.

Saturday's activities include the Bernard-Massard Grand-Prix at 6 p.m., a concert by T42 and Ezio & Booga at 8 p.m. and a "night glow" event at 10 p.m. in Meysembourg.

Closing ceremonies include a concert by First H at 3 p.m. with Grand-Prix Voyages Ecker following at 6 p.m.

A balloon pin is available at all Shell gas stations in Luxembourg, entitling people to free entrance. Cost is 8.68 DM.

More information about the event and a spectator's guide are available at [www.balloon.lu](http://www.balloon.lu).



This is one of the many picturesque aerial views people can see of valleys and cities as the balloon gently flies with the air currents along the Mosel River. Balloon rides are available for adults and children ages 13 and older for 350 DM per person. Reservations must be made in advance by calling 06531-5080.

# Circus Barum offers excitement, laughter

Big top performances open in Trier now through Monday

By Iris Reiff  
52nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

A crowd of curious onlookers were already in place early Monday morning to see how tent city came to life at the Trier's Moselauen grounds. They watched how a handful of people assembled thousands of pieces of equipment — poles, ropes, wooden boards, benches and lights. The blue-, white-, and red-colored tent finally stood and the show began in the ring.

Circus Barum welcomed the guests with a musical introduction by Europe's Circus Orchestra, lead by Tadeuz Piasarczyk.

Following a warm welcome by Gerd Siemoneit, circus director, a group of well-bred horses, dromedaries and six American, miniature horses arrived in the ring, led by animal trainer Sandro Kraemer.

It is not an easy task for the two clowns Sidney and Berti to deal with their clown brother, Christian, who believes he is smarter and better.

A first-class acrobatic act, "Little Devil," was performed by 13-year-old Anton Beljakov and his father Leonid from Russia, followed by the Chinese couple Gao Hui Jun and Cui Wei who demonstrated their juggling skills. This performance is quite unusual and received applause from the circus visitors.

At a height of 12 meters (about 32.5 feet), the Russian trapeze artists Elena, Larissa and Inna performed breathtaking feats that received lots of attention from



Foto honorar frei

**Circus Barum tigers pose as instructed by Gerd Siemoneit, wild animal trainer and circus director. Five of the circus' tigers are rare white tigers of which there are only about 200 in the world.**

those who could watch. Clowns Vladimir and Oleg then took over to focus people's attention back on the ground again. Afterward, Kraemer paraded zebras and camels around the ring to conclude the first part of the circus show.

A 15-minute intermission followed, offers people the opportunity to use the restrooms or buy snacks.

The second half of the circus performance started off with a demonstration by the circus director. Siemoneit is an expert when it comes to dealing with wild animals. With five white tigers, he demonstrated the different personalities and characters of the wild felines. There are only about 200 white tigers of this kind in the world.

After a couple of clowning acts, Glen Niclodi from Italy introduced his four legged friend "Bibi." The poodle is known to be a real star.

No one has ever been able to figure out how Olga and

Viatcheslav manage to change their clothes within seconds. This proved to be a funny circus act enjoyed by all ages.

As a final performance, the floor belonged to the artist Evgeni Chmarlovski who impersonated "Dr. Doolittle." He had a variety of special-effect plays and performances for the visitors.

Circus Barum celebrates its 30th anniversary this year. The circus employs 100 people and owns 80 animals.

During the main performing season, March through November, Circus Barum performs in up to 80 cities.

The three-hour shows in Trier take place at 3:30 and 7:30 p.m. today through Monday. Entry prices range from 12, 20 and 25 DM for children ages 2-16, to 30, 45 and 55 DM for adults. Retirees with a valid retirement pass receive a discount.

Call 0171-4638731 or 0171- 4638732, or visit [www.Circus-barum.de](http://www.Circus-barum.de) for more information.

## Trittenheim invites base to wine festival, 'wedding'

USAFE commander invited to serve as grand marshal

By Iris Reiff  
52nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

The Mosel town of Trittenheim, which became an official sister-city with the 52nd Fighter Wing in 1995, invites all wing members and their families to its millenium Saint Laurentius Wine Festival today through Sunday.

The festival starts at 7:30 p.m. today with the arrival of Wine King Cephas Bansah. This year's event is special since it includes the wedding of King Bansah from Ghanah and Gaby Jung. The wedding will draw thousands of people from all over the country.

The wedding parade starts at 10 a.m. Saturday from the Lukashof winery. The actual wedding takes place at 11 a.m. in the Laurentius chapel, which is surrounded by vineyards.

Wedding guests meet at the festival tent on the Mosel shore at 1 p.m.

At 6 p.m., in a parade, King Bansah accompanies the new wine queen Alexandra I to the festival tent. The crowning gala for

the new queen takes place at 8 p.m.

At this time, Gen. Gregory S. Martin, U.S. Air Forces in Europe commander and grand marshal for this year's event, delivers a welcome along with German representatives, including Trittenheim officials.

The USAFE Ambassador Big Band performs a concert following the speeches. A special midnight show with German musicians is planned following the USAFE band concert. Entry to the later show is 10 DM.

Activities Sunday include a musical brunch at 11 a.m. with the Treveris Choir performing. A parade takes place at 2 p.m. through the streets of Trittenheim. Celebrations with neighboring communities and dance music begins at 10 p.m.

The Trittenheim festival ends with a public Riesling wine probe at 6 p.m. Monday. Cost is 28 DM at the door. Tickets are available by calling 06507-2227 or 06531-4023.

Trittenheim is located about 10 kilometers from Schweich. Regularly, members from the base either attend wine probes or help growers with their grape harvesting.



Iris Reiff

### Searching for a bargain

A local man browses through a sales rack. Germany's summer sales end at 4 p.m. Saturday. Store owners are depleting their stock to make room for fall merchandise. Sales signs with the word "Schlussverkauf," which is usually marked in red, can mean big savings. Sale items most often include clothes, shoes, curtains and furniture.



## Movies

All movies play at 7 p.m. unless otherwise indicated.

### Bitburg Castle

Today

#### Chicken Run (G)

At Tweedy's Chicken Farm, any chicken who doesn't make her egg quota can meet a "fowl" fate. But Ginger and her fellow flock are determined to break out before they can be fried or fricasseed.

Saturday

#### Chicken Run

Sunday

#### Chicken Run

Closed Monday and Tuesday

Wednesday

#### Screwed (PG-13)

Willard, the abused and under-appreciated chauffeur to Miss Crock, the employer from hell, has devised a "foolproof" plan for revenge. Crude humor, nudity, language and violence.

Thursday

#### Gladiator (R)

In AD 180, when a cruel new Emperor of Rome takes power, he strips the rank from Maximus, one of the favored generals of his father. Relegated to fighting in the gladiator arenas to the death lest he challenges Commodus for the emperorship. Graphic combat.

### Spangdahlem Skyline

Today

#### The Perfect Storm (PG-13)

Based on a true story, the film tells of the courageous men and women who risk their lives every working day, pitting their fishing boats and rescue vessels against the capricious forces of nature. Their fears are realized at sea when they're confronted by the most destructive storm in modern history. Language.

Saturday

#### The Perfect Storm

Sunday

#### The Kid (PG)

Russ somehow finds his life turned upside down when he magically meets Rusty - himself as an 8-year-old child.

Monday

#### Road Trip (R)

Four friends take off on a 1,000-mile trip across the country — Ithaca, N.Y., to Austin, Texas. The reason the guys are on the road is to get to one boy's girlfriend before she receives a certain sex-filled videotape mistakenly mailed to her. Sexual and adult content, and language.

Tuesday

#### Shanghai Noon (PG-13)

A clumsy Imperial Guard to the Emperor of China vows to help Princess Pei Pei who is kidnapped and taken to Nevada. Violence and language.

Closed Wednesday and Thursday

Times and movies are subject to change.  
For the most current information,  
call 453-7541.

# Witness Rhein Aflame Saturday

By Iris Reiff

52nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Every year on the second Saturday in August, about 500,000 guests witness a magnificent spectacle on the Rhein and Mosel rivers—the Rhein Aflame festival which lights up the countryside in Koblenz.

Castles, old half-timbered houses and the Rhein shore are illuminated for the event. More than 8 fireworks displays top off the celebrations along the rivers between Braubach, Spay and Koblenz.

Koblenz celebrates this annual festival with a number of special attractions, including an amusement park. Events begin at 4 p.m. today with entertainment near the Deutsche Eck or German Corner, where the Rhein and Mosel rivers meet. Several bands from Germany and elsewhere start their performances early in the evening near the Rhein bridge.

Entry to the festivities and concerts is 48 DM. Tickets can be obtained from the Koblenz Touristik office at 0261-31304. Dance music also plays in the Rhein-Mosel hall throughout the night.

Saturday's activities include the opening of the amusement park at 11 a.m., and music and entertainment along the Mosel shore starting at 3 p.m.

Several hot air balloons take off from the Luetzel Mosel shore at 6 p.m. with a fly-over as well as a demonstration by water



Gauls Die Fotografen

**Castles, half-timbered houses and the Rhein shore are illuminated during the Rhein Aflame festival in Koblenz. The event takes place this Saturday.**

rescue aircraft following at 7 p.m. The aircraft land on the German Corner at about 7:30 p.m. with parachute jumpers following at about 8 p.m.

Seventy decorated passenger ships with 40,000 spectators, making up the largest

flotilla in Europe, cruise down the Rhein passing illuminations and arriving in Koblenz at 10:30 p.m. Reservations for the boats need to be made a year prior to the event.

This spectacle can be viewed from the banks of the river or from the hillside on either side of a 17-kilometer stretch of the Rhein. While the brightly illuminated fleet slowly glides down the Rhein, the adjacent towns with their romantic buildings, fortresses and castles are bathed in Bengal light.

Eight displays of fireworks along the way light up the evening sky at Spay, Braubach (Marksburg castle), Brey, Rhens, Lahnstein and Koblenz. The initial fireworks display kicks off at 9:30 p.m. in Spay, while the final and biggest one starts at about 11 p.m. from the Koblenz Ehrenbreitstein Castle.

The town and river shores are illuminated prior to the Koblenz fireworks display. Food and beverages, including Mosel wines, are available at stands along the streets.

Since nearly 500,000 spectators come to the Koblenz festival each year, people who plan to drive should arrive early to find parking and a good spot to watch the fireworks.

Koblenz is about 100 kilometers northeast of Spangdahlem and can be reached via Autobahn 1/48 from Wittlich.



## Out and about



■The Speicher trade association sponsors a free country open air concert by the Black Hills Country Band at 8:30 p.m. Saturday in the Speicher market square. The base's Eifel Outlaws dancers perform during the concert.

■The new 55-kilometer long Maare-Mosel bicycling track opens today in Bernkastel-Kues, Wittlich and Daun. For more information on opening ceremonies taking place this weekend, call 06571-14260.

■Luxembourg City sponsors "Summer In The City" Saturday featuring street artists, jugglers, clowns and other entertainment throughout the pedestrian area. For more information, call the tourist information office at 00352-222809.

■Flying demonstrations by aircraft and helicopters can be seen during the Utscheid Open House starting at 1 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

■An Eifel bicycling tour takes place Aug. 20. Start and finish from Sued Schule in Bitburg, located next to the German movie theater. Start time is between 7 a.m. and noon. The shortest route is 45 kilometers and the longest is 50 kilometers. Details are available at any bicycle shop in Bitburg or at the local Volks bank.

■"Hard Pop Days 2000" features a

concert by Die Aerzte, Die Fantastischen 4, Bloodhound Gang and Bad Religion. Special guests are Fuenf Sterne Deluxe, Pitchshifter, Alternative Allstars and a surprise act. The concert takes place Sept. 3 at the Koblenz Ehrenbreitstein castle. Tickets are 66 DM and are available from the ticket hot line at 0180-5202205.

■Visit a flea market Sunday at Trier Messepark; in front of the Kenn Wal-Mart store; in front of the Wittlich-Moebel Kings furniture store; inside and outside the Kroev Weinbrunnen hall; in front of the Stadtkyll Rewe Center store; at the Enkirch festival grounds; at the Muelheim industrial grounds; at the Puelderich festival grounds; along the Reil Mosel shore; at the Idar-Oberstein festival grounds; at the Mainz university parking lot; and in front of the Aach Klinikum.

■Calligraph book art can be seen through Aug. 20 at the Himmerod Abbey. The exhibition by artist Norman Hotum is open 2-6 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday, and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday.

■Enjoy the Bitburg Summer Mosaic, an event featuring music, entertainment, art and family fun through Aug. 30. The majority of events take place starting at 7 p.m. Saturday. Barbecues and music are part of the

events.

■Make plans to attend the Magic of the Dance show Oct. 14 in the Bitburg Edith Stein School. More information on this event will appear in a future issue of the Eifel Times. For tickets, call 06727-952333.

■Trier sponsors weekly markets all day Tuesday, and Friday mornings on Viehmarkt Platz located in the pedestrian zone. At the market people can find fresh fruit, vegetables and flowers.

■Pruem Summer is an event that offers music, dancing performances, food and a variety of entertainment through Thursday in the village.

■Look into the future at the world exposition in Hanover — EXPO 2000 — through October 31. More information will appear in a future issue of the Eifel Times.

■Enjoy a day at Europe's newest theme park - Six Flags - in Holland. An all-day pass and transportation costs \$60 for adults while children's fares vary. For more information, call Adrienne Williams at 452-6487, 452-6696 or 0172-682-2284.

■Plan to attend the annual Bernkastel-Kues wine and street festival today through Sunday on Weingarten street in Kues. Mosel food specialties,

music and various forms of entertainment will be offered. This event is not to be confused with the annual Bernkastel-Middle Mosel wine festival.

■Enjoy the Limes art prize competition 2000 featuring international art Aug. 26 through Sept. 17. The exhibition is open 2-5 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday.

■Wittlich's annual Pig Burners Festival takes place Aug. 18-21. More information and a festival schedule will be printed in next week's Eifel Times.

■Visit the Luxembourg City Schobermesse Aug. 21 through Sept. 6. This event is known as the October festival for the Benelux. Enjoy music, entertainment and an amusement park in the center of town.

■Enjoy the annual Manderscheid Castle festival Aug. 26-27 featuring knights, jousting competitions, a fireworks display, a handicraft market and more. Details will appear in a future issue of the Eifel Times.

■The annual Bernkastel Middle-Mosel wine festival takes place Aug. 31 through Sept. 4. A fireworks display over the Burg Landshut takes place at 9 p.m. Sept. 2, along with a parade at 2 p.m. Sept. 3 through the streets of town. A festival schedule will be printed in a future issue of the Eifel Times.